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ASIATIC ANNUAL REGISTER.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION,

To the RIGHT HON. HENRY DUNDAS,

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and President of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India;

AND ALSO, BY PERMISSION,

To the HONOURABLE the COURT of DIRECTORS of the EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

London, PRINTED BY COOPER AND WILSON,
Wild-Court, Wild-Street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.

PLAN of an ASIATIC REGISTER;

OR,

PROPOSALS FOR PUBLISHING, ANNUALLY,

A VIEW of the HISTORY, POLITICS, COMMERCE, and LITERATURE, of HINDUSTAN; together with a connected Detail of the principal Occurrences, Civil, Military, and Commercial, of BRITISH INDIA.

The first Volume of which will be published in January 1800, *price* 10*s.* 6*d.*
and no Money received till the Delivery of the Work.

THE utility of Periodical Works has been long felt, and is universally acknowledged. That an Annual Publication, from the portion of time which it embraces, and the variety of subjects which it has thereby the advantage of presenting in regular order and on an enlarged scale, is of more general use, and even more amusing, than Monthly Magazines and Reviews—the credit which DODSLEY'S ANNUAL REGISTER has obtained with the Public bears ample and decisive testimony.

The Politics and Commerce of ASIA in general, and of HINDUSTAN in particular, interesting in all ages to the enlightened Nations of Europe, have, in the course of this century, attained a degree of importance infinitely greater than even the dreams of Speculation had predicted. With GREAT BRITAIN, they have become most intimately connected. This prosperous and happy Island, by the wisdom of her Legislators, the enterprizing spirit of her Merchants, and the knowledge and intrepidity of some distinguished men, has acquired a vast dominion in the fairest provinces of Asia, and in the most fertile region of the earth. Besides her valuable possessions on the peninsula of India, she now holds the sole and undivided Sovereignty of BENGAL and BAHAR; a tract of country considerably larger than France, and inhabited by thirty-two millions of civilized people.

It is the grand object of the Plan here ſubmitted to the Public, to diffuſe, throughout Great Britain, a general, but diſtinct knowledge of theſe valuable countries; by preſenting to them an annual view of every Oriental ſubject that can in any way intereſt, or amuſe, either men of buſineſs who have not leiſure to read voluminous performances, or men of pleaſure who may chooſe to relieve the round of their amuſements with an inſtructive relaxation.

The Editors of the ASIATIC REGISTER propoſe to offer, in the *Firſt Part* of their Miſcellany, a connected Hiſtorical Memoir of BRITISH INDIA, from the foundation of the Company's Eſtabliſhments on the Coaſt of COROMANDEL, to the preſent plenitude of their power. They propoſe that the REGISTER ſhall commence from the 1ſt of January 1799, and that the firſt Volume ſhall be publiſhed on the 1ſt of January following.

The *Second Part* of the REGISTER will contain a faithful Chronicle of Public Events in Aſia at large, and a regular detail of all Civil and Military Tranſactions in Britiſh India, together with an annual view of Aſiatic Politics and Oriental Commerce. Annexed to the Chronicle will be inſerted a liſt of the Civil and Military Promotions at the different Settlements; alſo a liſt of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths, of the Britiſh Inhabitants of India: the Obituary will record the principal incidents in the Lives, and the moſt prominent features in the Characters, of thoſe whoſe minds have been exerciſed in the ſervice, or whoſe blood has flowed in the cauſe, of their Country.

The *Third Part* will conſiſt of Biographical Accounts, and particular delineations of thoſe Public Characters, whether ASIATIC or EUROPEAN, who have filled the higheſt ſituations in the principal countries, and acted the moſt diſtinguiſhed parts in the political theatre of Aſia, from the earlieſt period of authenticated hiſtory, to the preſent times. Literary and Private Characters, who have rendered themſelves valuable to Society by their talents or their virtues, will receive the eulogium they may deſerve themſelves, and that illuſtration which may not only be intereſting but uſeful to others.

The *Fourth Part* will give authentic accounts of Voyages to, and Travels in, thoſe parts of Aſia, of which our knowledge is ſtill ſo confined. This diviſion of the Work it were ſuperfluous to recommend by any obſervations on the intereſt which it is calculated to excite, or the entertainment and utility that it cannot fail to afford.

Miſcellaneous Eſſays on the Arts, Sciences, and general Literature of Aſia, will form the *Fifth Part* of the REGISTER: And as the Editors conceive Poetry properly belongs to this article, they propoſe to annex to it ſuch poetical communications as they may be favoured with, that are either Tranſlations from the ASIATIC POETS, or deſcriptive of Aſiatic Scenery, Cuſtoms, or Manners.

The *Sixth* and laſt Part will conſiſt of Abſtracts of the beſt Books on Aſiatic Affairs in general, with Remarks upon them; and alſo a ſtrict Review of all Publications on the Hiſtory, Politics, Literature or Commerce of India, and on ſuch as have an immediate relation to thoſe important ſubjects. To this department of the Work will be added a faithful Report of ſuch Proceedings and Debates as may occur at the General Courts of Eaſt-India Proprietors.

The Plan here ſubmitted to the Public for its patronage is ſo general and extenſive, and the execution of it requires ſo much information, aſſiduity and attention, that thoſe who may be the moſt inclined to encourage the undertaking, will very naturally aſk, Whether men, who thus boldly promiſe, be ſufficiently qualified to perform? and, whether ſuch boldneſs does not rather belong to the raſhneſs of ignorance, than to the confidence of knowledge?—To this the Editors can only anſwer, That they have reſided in India, and have long made the ſubjects of the propoſed Work their peculiar ſtudy. Without, therefore, arrogating any ſuperiority of talents, they think it would be unworthy of that kindneſs expected of a generous Public, as well as deficient in duty to themſelves and to their Country, were they to permit a timid ſuppoſition of incapacity to deter them from doing what they deem may be beneficial to Society, and what, with the promiſed aſſiſtance of their friends, they truſt they ſhall ſatisfactorily perform.

*** *The Editors of the* ASIATIC ANNUAL REGISTER *reſpectfully intreat Orders for the Work to be tranſmitted to* Mr. DEBRETT, oppoſite Burlington Houſe, Piccadilly, London; *to whom all Communications intended for the* ASIATIC REGISTER *are to be addreſſed.*

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